

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
December 4, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Mr. Al Thomas (Vice Chair), Ms. Donna Newcomb (Secretary), Mr. John Moses and Ms. Barbara Skaar

Also present: Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent), and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business and Finance)

Mr. King opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tonight's meeting is being televised and recorded by Chelmsford Telemedia.

Mr. Thomas called for a moment of silence in memory of Bob Bennett and Carol Pilat, both long time administrators in the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of November 20, 2018

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of November 20, 2018. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

CHS Student Representative Announcements

Clare shared that the English Honor Society induction was held last week. Fall sports awards were given to student athletes as well. ALICE training for all students will be held at CHS tomorrow.

Kate spoke stating the National Honor Society induction will be held on December 10, 2018, in the PAC. The winter concert with the chorus, band and orchestra will be on December 12th. The ATWE concert will be on December 20th. Mr. O'Keefe's sociology class will be going to the Shirley prison on December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

Good News

Dr. Hirsch stated the tech engineering department worked with the cheerleaders to make signs for tonight's fund raiser. Roz Bonnar, an eighth grade science teacher at McCarthy, and Carol Bruell, who teaches biology at CHS, were chosen to work on the MCAS Council with DESE on the upcoming science tests. Middle and CHS students played at the tree lighting at the gazebo. The Geography Bee finalists from McCarthy and Parker will be taking the qualifying test to see if they will proceed to the state championship.

Public Comments

None

New Business

1. Spotlight on the Schools: McCarthy Middle School

Principal McPhee and Assistant Principal Calabrese along with a few students shared the highlights from McCarthy. The slides are included in tonight's agenda packet. They shared the school's current "social contract" from the autumn of 2016, which is based on the PRIDE initiative. Every three or four years the entire school works on creating a new contract. The expectations of the contract are part of the way business is conducted daily at the school. The McCarthy School Improvement Plan focuses on students feeling connected. The students of the month and raffle recognition reward student successes in many ways, not just academically. After morning announcements each day a "McCarthy Mindful Moment" each shared. Students came to the table and shared information about the "Stand Up McCarthy" club, which is a "safe, comfortable and welcoming" group accepting of all, without judgement and McCarthy's annual Project 300, which vigorously supports the Salvation Army Food Bank of greater Lowell annually.

2. Teachers for Global Classroom (TGC) Presentation: CHS Teachers Linda Tanini and Brian Acheson

Mr. Acheson was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but Ms. Tanini shared her experiences from her participation in this program during the summer. She spoke of her time in Delhi, Kozhikode, Padang and Jakarta meeting with educators and students. She shared many colorful slides during her presentation. Many similarities were found with teachers in other countries and Ms. Tanini saw passion for teaching, making due with materials that are available, the impact of technology on education around the world and, lastly, the value of clean air and water. She thanked the residents of Chelmsford who read her blog each day and supported her in this endeavor. With Mr. Acheson she created a "Global Education Guide" to share with teachers.

3. Follow-Up: Future School Committee Public Forum Topics

The Committee agreed to hold the next public forum on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at the Chelmsford Police Station. Ms. Skaar and Ms. Newcomb will plan the agenda and report back at the next Committee meeting.

4. New School Committee Member Orientation/School Committee Handbook

Mr. King prepared a draft of the handbook and shared it in tonight's agenda packet. The Committee will take the time to review it and it will be placed on the agenda for December 18, 2018, for discussion.

5. Update: New Civics Education Law in Massachusetts

Dr. Hirsch prepared a memorandum and provided details of the new law in a power point. Stephanie Quinn, the Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies, will attend the Committee meeting on December 18, 2018, and will share additional information. Dr. Hirsch believes the Chelmsford Public Schools are in good shape moving forward with the new law.

6. 2018/2019 School Improvement Plans

Included in tonight's packet are the updated improvement plans for all the Chelmsford Public Schools. The individual SIPs for each school are found on the school's website, listed as "important documents".

7. Proposed 2019/20 School Calendar

Dr. Lang shared that the calendar will have the school year starting before Labor Day as it did this year. With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Wednesdays next year, a full two week vacation is proposed for the end of December and the beginning of January.

Mr. Thomas motioned to accept the Chelmsford Public Schools academic calendar for 2019/2020 as presented. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

8. Proposed FY20 Budget Calendar/Timeline

Dr. Lang shared a memorandum in tonight's packet suggesting dates for meetings on the budget, including time for public input. This year's proposed schedule is similar to last year's which worked very well. The Committee liked the proposed timeline.

9. Contract Negotiations Timeline

Dr. Lang included a memorandum detailing bargaining units whose contracts will expire on June 30, 2019. He suggests the Committee meet in Executive Session in the coming weeks so that negotiations may begin right after New Year's.

10. Approval of Conferences and Field Trip Requests

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the McCarthy Middle School trip for the eighth graders to Quebec City from April 26th through April 28, 2019. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Hana Barker is planning to interview Committee members prior to the December 18, 2018, meeting, for an upcoming program on Chelmsford Telemedia.

Reports

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Newcomb shared that the Chelmsford Friends of Music auction will close on December 11th. The survey put out by SEPAC was well received.

Ms. Skaar stated that the Capital Planning Committee finished up last Friday and approved 3.4 million in capital expenditures.

Mr. Thomas shared that several Committee members attended the dedication of the Fletcher Fitness Room, which was an "outstanding" event.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the Committee meeting at 7:48 p.m. Ms. Skaar seconded. Motion carries 5-0.

Tonight's meeting may be viewed in its entirety on Chelmsford Telemedia you/Tube.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Giglio